

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 20, and 31 have been amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) because the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance as discussed below; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserves the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,308,163 to Du *et al.* Applicant maintains the argument that the use of the term "role" in Du *et al.* is distinct from its use in the present application and that Du *et al.* do not, therefore, make obvious any pending claim of the present invention. Nevertheless, in response to the Office's indication that "the claim limitation recites 'returning best matching resources' and contains 'no limitation regarding whether a search calls for a narrower or broader result,' claim 1 has been amended to more clearly indicate that the parent role is identified from a list of super roles based on at least one search criterion narrower than was used to identify all super roles. Office Action at 4. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that Du *et al.* do not teach the limitations of claim 1, as amended, and

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respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In the Office Action, claims 6-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Du *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,826,239 to Du *et al.* (the '239 patent). Applicant maintains the argument that neither Du *et al.* nor the '239 patent teach a matrix organizational model. In response to this argument, the Office cites MPEP form paragraph 7.37.10, stating that the matrix organizational model recitation has been given no weight because it occurs in the preamble and "the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness." Office Action at 4. Applicant asserts, however, that the body of claim 6 clearly does depend on its preamble for completeness, as it specifically refers to "said matrix organizational model."

Nevertheless, claim 6 has been amended to make clear that appropriate recipient(s) may include recipients in other organizational units. This limitation is not found in FIGS. 8 or 10 of Du *et al.*, which are cited by the Office as teaching "functional organizational links used to define the scope of services provided by [] groups of resources." Office Action at 5. Accordingly, for both of the reasons above, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 20 and 31 have similarly been amended to make clear that the appropriate recipient(s) may include recipients in other organizational units. In addition, Applicant asserts that each of claims 20 and 31 similarly depends upon their preamble recitations of "matrix organizational model" for completeness, as the body of each refers to "said matrix organizational model." Accordingly, for both of these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicant notes that the above deficiencies in the teachings of Du *et al.* and the '239

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patent are attributable to the fundamental differences in their structures and methodologies, as compared to the present invention. That is, each of Du *et al.* and the '239 patent utilize resource managers (e.g., local resource managers (LRMs), global resource managers (GRMs), etc.) to monitor and/or allocate resources based upon a request for resources. Each resource, therefore, must be pre-categorized and assigned to one or more resource managers in order for the resource to be made available in response to a request for resources, which is submitted to a resource manager.

Contrarily, the present invention eschews the use of resource managers in favor of a matrix organizational model, whereby organizational, hierarchical, and functional components of an organization are separated and resources allocated based upon a rules-based system. In particular, the present invention utilizes functional links, which "allow a portion of an organization tree/sub-tree to be made available as a provider of some service or function to another sub-tree that is part of a completely different organization." Application at 4. In other words, the rules-based system of the present invention may permit any resource to be allocated in response to a request for resources, even if the organizational, hierarchical, or functional components of the organization did not originally envision or anticipate such an allocation.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application. Should the Examiner require anything further from Applicant, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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